



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 681

LCO No. 3097

03097_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Minority Health Advisory Council that shall work to eliminate the
3 disparities in health status among the state's multicultural,
4 multilingual and multiethnic communities. Additionally, such council
5 shall work for an overall improvement of the quality of health for state
6 residents. Such council shall consist of the following commissioners, or
7 their designees, and public members: (1) The Commissioners of Public
8 Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental
9 Services, Social Services, Correction, Children and Families, and
10 Education; (2) the dean of The University of Connecticut Health
11 Center, or his designee; (3) the codirectors of The University of
12 Connecticut Health Center and Center for Public Health and Health
13 Policy, or their designees; (4) the dean of the Yale University Medical
14 School, or his designee; (5) the dean of Public Health and the School of
15 Epidemiology at Yale University, or his designee; (6) one member
16 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a

17 member of an affiliate of the National Urban League; (7) one member
18 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall
19 be a member of the National Association for the Advancement of
20 Colored People; (8) one member appointed by the majority leader of
21 the House of Representatives, who shall be a member of the Black and
22 Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly; (9) one member
23 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate with the advice of the
24 Native American Heritage Advisory Council or the chairperson of the
25 Indian Affairs Council who shall be a representative of the Native
26 American community; (10) one member appointed by the minority
27 leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of an advocacy
28 group for Hispanics; (11) one member appointed by the minority
29 leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative
30 of the state-wide Multicultural Health Network; (12) the chairperson of
31 the African-American Affairs Commission, or his or her designee; (13)
32 the chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, or
33 his or her designee; (14) the chairperson of the Permanent Commission
34 on the Status of Women, or his or her designee; and (15) eight
35 members of the public, representing diverse multicultural,
36 multilingual, multiethnic backgrounds, who shall be appointed as
37 follows: Two by the president pro tempore of the Senate, two by the
38 speaker of the House of Representatives, two by the minority leader of
39 the Senate, and two by the minority leader of the House of
40 Representatives. Vacancies on the council shall be filled by the
41 appointing authority.

42 (b) The council shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from
43 among its members. Any member absent from either: (1) Three
44 consecutive meetings of the council, or (2) fifty per cent of such
45 meetings during any calendar year, shall be deemed to have resigned
46 from the council.

47 (c) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but
48 within available appropriations, and shall be reimbursed for expenses
49 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

50 (d) The council shall meet as often as necessary as determined by
51 the chairperson or a majority of the council.

52 (e) The council shall: (1) Review and comment on any proposed
53 state legislation and regulations that would affect the health of
54 multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic populations in the state;
55 (2) review and comment on the Department of Public Health's health
56 disparities performance measures; (3) advise and provide information
57 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the state's policies
58 concerning the health of the multicultural, multilingual, multiethnic
59 communities in the state; (4) work as a liaison between the
60 multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic communities and state
61 agencies in order to eliminate health disparities; (5) evaluate the
62 impact of programs in the Departments of Public Health, Social
63 Services, Children and Families, Developmental Services and
64 Education to eliminate such health disparities; and (6) prepare and
65 submit to the Governor and General Assembly an annual report, in
66 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, that provides
67 both a retrospective and prospective view of health disparities and the
68 state's efforts to ameliorate identifiable disparities among the
69 multicultural, multilingual, multiethnic populations of the state.

70 (f) The council may use such funds as may be available from federal,
71 state or other sources, and may enter into contracts to carry out the
72 provisions of this section.

73 (g) The council may, within available appropriations and subject to
74 the provisions of chapter 67 of the general statutes, employ any
75 necessary staff.

76 (h) The council shall be within the Office of the Health Care
77 Advocate for administrative purposes only.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Minority Health Advisory Council.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]